



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN
A Maryville resident receives her first dose of the Moderna vaccine in the Hughes Fieldhouse Feb. 4. At the Feb. 26 clinic, health officials will administer 100 first doses of Moderna and nearly 1,000 second doses of Pfizer.

Nodaway County among state leaders in virus vaccination rate

MADELINE MAPES
Assistant News Editor | @MadelineMMapes

Nodaway County is among one of the counties with the highest population of residents who have been vaccinated with their first dose in Missouri.

President of Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville Nate Blackford said this week's COVID-19 mass vaccination clinic will primarily focus on administering second doses and work to administer some first doses Feb. 26 in the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse, contributing to the county's population of vaccinated individuals.

According to Missouri's COVID-19 dashboard, as of Feb. 23, Nodaway County has administered 4,779 vaccines — 3,474 being first doses and 1,300 being second

doses. Nodaway County's first dose vaccinated population is 15.7%; to reach herd immunity in a population, it is estimated that 50% to 80% of a population are immune. Nodaway County is ranked 14 out of 115 counties in Missouri as the highest vaccinated population.

The Missouri dashboard shows that Pulaski County, which is home to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, just about 27 miles southwest of Rolla, Missouri, is the county with the least amount of its population vaccinated with first doses at only 4.5%.

Shelby County has vaccinated 21.1% of its population, making it the county with the highest vaccinated population in Missouri.

SEE VACCINE | A4

City turns focus toward future

Maryville releases increased budget for fiscal year

RACHEL ADAMSON
Editor-in-Chief | @rachadamsonn

Maryville has set a \$25.7 million budget for the 2021 fiscal year — increasing its spending by about \$1.7 million from the 2020 fiscal year budget of \$24 million — providing a window into the city's spending priorities.

The city's plan includes nearly \$1.8 million for the South Main Corridor Improvement Project. This project is a 1.5-mile reconstruction of South Main Street to improve traffic flow, provide pedestrian amenities and better aesthetic value in the part of town that makes up for 62% of all retail sales and offers nearly 40 acres of undeveloped commercial property.

In December 2018, the city received a \$10.5 million federal grant with the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development. Money the city is spending this fiscal year on the project is a required local match for the grant and will decrease the Capital Improvement Fund by 77.5%. This project serves as the city's first strategic goal for the fiscal year.

Strengthening the economy by promoting and elevating local tourism assets is what the city has its sights set on for its second



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Maryville Mayor Benjamin Lipiec and Councilman Jason McDowell converse after the City Council meeting Feb. 22 in the Maryville Community Center. The Council approved first steps for three major projects.

strategic goal with \$779,500 in the budget. Wayfinding signage accounts for \$183,000 of the total allotted amount.

A large portion of the second goal will be put toward improvements at Mozingo Lake and Recreation Park, which serves as the city's largest economic driver, with a 2015 study showing the facility accounted for \$9.6 million annual economic impact. The RV campground has \$450,000 dedicated to it for park expansion and another \$130,000 for boat dock expansion and replacement, which the City Council approved a contract for Feb. 22. The remaining budget is allocated toward various facility maintenance and updates.

Another economic driver for

the city is the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse, a partnership with the University where the city put \$3.5 million toward its construction. In 2019, the fieldhouse saw 30,000 attendees and five intercollegiate indoor track meets, which led to all local hotel occupancies at 100% for each meet. A transient guest tax voters passed in 2016, placing a 5% tax increase on hotel stays, aided in funding for local tourism initiatives.

The Downtown Signal Replacement Project, with \$437,820 in the 2021 fiscal year budget, a part of the city's third focus area, is already projected to go over budget with an \$880,775 contract approved for the undertaking at a recent City Council meeting. This

project will replace the traffic signals downtown located at Third and Main and Fourth and Main streets that were added in 2008 for temporary use. The replacement will include new traffic signals with permanent mast arms.

"Right now we are looking for ways to cost-save without cutting the quality of the project," City Manager Greg McDanel said. "In the meantime, we have several major projects that are opening up for construction bids, which will allow us to determine how much financial savings we will have on other projects."

SEE BUDGET | A4

Council enters joint effort to solve water taste issues

RACHEL ADAMSON
Editor-in-Chief | @rachadamsonn

In the matter of 30 minutes — give or take a few — the Maryville City Council passed nine new ordinances, perhaps the most notable item being another attempted solution to eradicate the ongoing water taste and odor issues stemming from Mozingo Lake.

At its Feb. 22 meeting, the Council voted to pass a \$1 million-\$1.4 million joint funding project with the Public Water Supply District No. 1. This partnership will largely include a short-term solution for granular activated carbon absorbers, which are considered the best technology available for removing methylisoborneol and geosmin. Maryville City Manager Greg McDanel announced in December 2020 that the city had high levels of geosmin as both compounds made drinking water smell and taste musty.

Mayor Benjamin Lipiec, echoed by Councilman Tye Parsons, said it was nice to see the county working alongside the city to try and overcome the looming water issue which has brought the Council recent public criticism.

SEE COUNCIL | A4

Senate's cold weather survey leads to coat drive, policy change

SIDNEY LOWRY
News Reporter | @sidney_lowry

It's not uncommon in Missouri to have teeth chatter and fingers go numb when being outside during the winter, but with the past weeks' temperatures being consistently subzero — dipping as low as minus 16 degrees in Maryville — students expressed their concern about how Northwest did not cancel classes on some of the coldest days of the school year.

After hearing these disturbances and concerns, Student Senate Off-Campus Representative Grace McDonnell was quick to

take action to represent the worries of her constituents.

She sent out a survey to students after hearing complaints about classes in the cold weather and asked them about the problems that they have when getting to school in the snow and cold weather. Students wanted the University to consider more than just temperature when it calls off classes.

One student from the survey expressed that they were a distant commuter and they can't always get to class when weather is extreme.

SEE SURVEY | A4



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN
After dispatching a survey, Northwest's Student Senate found that students spend an average of 21 minutes outside while commuting to class in the cold.

UPD responds to small fire in Hudson Hall

WESLEY MILLER
News Reporter | @wesleymiller360

Northwest's University Police Department responded to a fire alarm set off in Hudson-Perrin Hall Feb. 22.

According to UPD, the fire alarm sounded Monday on the fourth floor of Hudson Hall, where responding officers located smoke coming from the mechanical room. A fan motor seized and overheated, leading to a small fire.

UPD Chief Clarence Green said officers extinguished the fire. The building was deemed safe by Maryville's Fire Department.

HP Hall Director Trey Carlson said smoke didn't cause any harm or damage. The fan's motor was replaced.

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Junior TJ Goldizen, a nontraditional student and president of the Student Veteran Association, stands in the Student Senate office where he is also a current member. Goldizen created SVA as a safe place for other student veterans.

ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Student veterans grow campus chapter

SIDNEY LOWRY
News Reporter | @sidney_lowry

After being founded just over a year ago, Northwest’s Student Veterans Association has expanded across campus to help student veterans and create a space for them and their supporters.

The SVA chapter was nominated as Chapter of the Year through Student Veterans of America against more than 1,500 other chapters across the country.

Junior TJ Goldizen, a nontraditional student and president of the

organization, started the chapter as a class project last spring along with Courtney Andreessen, the organization’s secretary. Goldizen started the recognition process as a part of the project, then by February 2020, it became a student organization on campus.

“It gives student veterans a place to be safe,” Goldizen said. “It sounds weird to the normal person, but having somewhere to go to feel safe and people who understand what I’ve been through is a nice thing to have.”

After transferring to Northwest last spring, Goldizen noticed that there was no student organization on campus for student veterans. With the help of former faculty members and opportunity through a class project, it quickly started expanding.

Northwest’s chapter was nominated as Chapter of the Year but was not chosen as one of the finalists. However, Goldizen said the organization has hope for the future.

“Just to have that honor is astounding,” Goldizen said. “It is awesome to know that there is recognition of us out there, and just being nominated is a great thing.”

Goldizen attributes his chapter’s nomination to the fact that the group adopted soldiers over this past Christmas and sent care packages to them while they served overseas.

“We managed to do four soldiers with the help of the Student Senate, a senator and the GOLD program here. One of the soldiers we adopted was one of the first graduates of the GOLD program here. Capt. Joshua Wilmes helped get everything going for that, as she’s currently deployed in Kuwait.”

Andreessen credits the group’s nomination to its fundraising efforts and plans for accomplishments throughout the organization.

“We hold lots of fundraisers where half of the funds go to different parts of the community, like the New Nodaway Humane Society and a local veterans group,” Andreessen said. “Even here on campus we are looking to have a new scholarship for student veterans, so I think it is about our involvement on campus and the community is why we not nominated.”

Though it helps the community, the bonds between people in the chapter is what makes it a safe place for student veterans. Andreessen said although she is not a student veteran, she can help and relate because she is the daughter of a veteran.

“One of things we wanted when we created SVA was for it to be open to anyone,” Andreessen said. “Everyone needs support, so that’s why we encourage everyone. Even if you’re not a student veteran, you can still learn a lot and support.”

SVA plans on continuing its community and campus involvement in the future and is proud to be a part of a military-friendly school and community.

“It has really helped me see the appreciation that we have within the community and the support there is for veterans, and that is really meaningful to me,” Andreessen said.

Wind farm fund gives \$12,500 to University ag center

HAILEY MACH
News Reporter | @haileymach98

Nodaway County Commissioners presented a \$12,500 check to Northwest Feb. 11 to go toward the Agricultural Learning Center. Commissioners promised to provide another check of the same amount next year for the project, making their total donation \$25,000.

The \$11.4 million agricultural facility is funded primarily through donations, grants and other funding. So far, the 29,000-square-foot building has seen more than \$5.5 million in donations out of the total \$6.5 million goal.

In May 2020, Tenaska Clear Creek established a community fund that supports programs in the county each year for the next 20 years. Nodaway County’s Presiding Commissioner Bill Walker said that the county receives \$15,000 per year from Tenaska to be able to use county land for its wind farm.

According to Walker, this year, \$12,500 of the \$15,000 went to the funding for the Agricultural Learning Center, and the remaining amount was given to The Ministry Center in Maryville. Walker said after the other half of the \$25,000 is given to Northwest for the Agricultural Learning Center, the commissioners plan to distribute the money from Tenaska between four to five smaller organizations or programs.

“Agriculture is our leading industry in the county, and we feel this will bring a big asset for that,” Walker said referring to the Agricultural Learning Center. “We just felt it was a worthwhile thing to give to.”

Northwest School of Agricultural Sciences Director Rod Barr noted that the school is very grateful for the donation from the Nodaway County Commissioners. Barr remembered conversations with the county regarding the donation throughout the past year but wasn’t sure when exactly it was going to receive this money.

Barr said the Agricultural Learning Center will help to integrate the R. T. Wright Farm even more than what the department currently does.

The building will also provide opportunities for younger members of the community. Schools in the area will be able to attend field trips, and groups like 4-H and FFA will get an opportunity to visit the facility.

Standing on R. T. Wright Farm next to Highway 71, the new agriculture building is set in a prime location to catch the attention of a passerby. The Agricultural Learning Center will hold classrooms, laboratories, a processing kitchen, a conference room, a study area and more.

Freshman agricultural education major Hanna Wilson remembered back to when she first heard about the Agricultural Learning Center during a campus visit. While looking at a digital layout of the new building, Wilson expressed her interest in the agronomy lab.

“I think it’ll help them,” Wilson said in reference to students in agriculture. “I think it’ll give them a bigger slash closer learning environment to the farm so they can actually go out and have hands-on experience.”

Wilson said people that she knows will benefit from the new agriculture building because most of them learn better when getting hands-on experience. She plans to take at least a couple of courses in the Agricultural Learning Center during her next four years at Northwest.

Barr noted that he is looking into the possibilities of making the processing kitchen a community facility that could be rented with training for health inspection. His ultimate goal is that with the state health inspected meat processing lab, students will be able to provide meat products to the University or even to the public.

As an alumnus, Barr remembered back to the 1980s when the idea for a building of this sort first came about.

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FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

University prevents cuts with hybrid class model

MADeline MAPES Assistant News Editor I @MadelineDMapes

Northwest is not among the scores of public universities that decided to operate primarily online this academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In doing so, the University may have saved itself from cuts to faculty or staff, among other things, to make ends meet.

Vice President of Finance and Administration Stacy Carrick provided The Missourian with documents detailing the University's revenue over the last three years.

For the 2020 fiscal year, Northwest gained roughly \$81.8 million in revenue.

Carrick explained that the main impact Northwest would have seen if it had moved to fully online classes would be in the Auxiliary Services budget, which mostly consists of on-campus housing and dining revenue.

"Freshman enrollment drives a lot of their revenues because freshmen live on campus, so they are paying the housing contracts and the meal contracts," Carrick said. "Meal contracts are also paid by continuing students who happen to buy a meal plan."

According to the document, Aux-

iliary Services brought in roughly \$16.8 million for the 2020 fiscal year. Carrick said that this revenue fluctuates from year to year depending on overall enrollment, how many students decide to live on campus and how many purchase a meal plan, whether they live on or off campus.

Coordinator of Housing Assignments Brandi Bix said the housing occupancy for this year is down compared to the 2019-20 school year.

She noted the fall 2020 occupancy rate was 75% and the spring 2021 occupancy rate is 72%. Bix said this slight decrease from fall to spring is not unusual.

"Our fall is always higher than our spring," Bix said. "So, we always know that we are going to lose students at semester. It could be due to withdrawal, graduation, student teaching and, of course, we encourage that and let students out without any fines or anything."

Bix said that the pandemic has had an impact on housing. In the fall of 2019, the occupancy rate for on-campus housing was 81%, and in the spring of 2020, it was 71%. The 10% decrease between the two semesters was due to the Universi-

ty's transition to remote learning in the middle of the spring semester.

This year's occupancy rates also reflect the impacts of the pandemic; the fall occupancy rate dropped 6% from 2019 to 2020.

"Whenever the numbers started to surge, there were students that were very hesitant to continue to live on campus," Bix said.

Auxiliary Services is performing below the budgeted levels for this fiscal year. She noted that she is projecting roughly \$500,000 to \$600,000 worth of auxiliary funds will have to be held back this year. This portion of the auxiliary funds is normally used for capital projects, which are buildings and building maintenance projects on residence halls and the J. W. Jones Student Union.

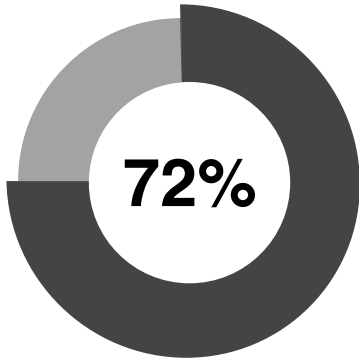
She explained that holding off on these maintenance projects often leads to worsening and more costly situations. Carrick said when roofing does not get replaced in time, more problems arise because of the damaged roof, resulting in things like leaks thus more expenses.

FULL STORY ONLINE: NWMISSOURIENews.COM

NORTHWEST FINANCES AND OCCUPANCY

\$81,878,455

2020 fiscal year revenue



Spring 2021 on-campus occupancy rate



Auxiliary services brought in **16.8M** to the University's \$81.8 million 2020 revenue.

MAKAYLA POLAK | NW MISSOURIAN

Wrestling club reinstated as official campus organization

SIDNEY LOWRY News Reporter I @sidney_lowry

After being approved by Northwest's Student Senate as a new student organization, Wrestling Club hopes to allow students a space to practice and eventually compete with different schools around the Midwest.

Junior William Anderson, founder of Wrestling Club, was looking forward to the championship-winning wrestling club at Northwest when he toured before coming to school here and was disappointed when he found that the club had been disbanded. Years later, he has found a group of people that want to reestablish a completely new wrestling club on Northwest's campus.

Student Senate President Kirayle Jones said that there were no objections to the approval of this club and that it is something students will enjoy having on campus.

"I think that the wrestling club will benefit the student body," Jones said. "This club will allow those students who may have wrestled in the past or students curious about the sport to partake in an organization that offers an enjoyable extracurricular."

After collaborating with students and faculty on campus as well as community members, there was hope that came with the Senate ap-



EMMA GOVREAU | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest junior William Anderson came to the University looking forward to joining the championship-winning wrestling club he was told about while on a campus tour. Anderson was disappointed to learn upon his arrival that the club had disbanded, so he decided to start his own.

proving the club from all around.

"Wrestling is a huge part of my life, and when Senate approved it, I almost cried," Anderson said. "It was a huge relief off my shoulders because I had all these guys that are super into the sport and local community members who want to see the sport come back to Northwest."

The new club is composed of 10 men and one woman who are now looking to eventually compete with different clubs in surrounding areas.

Though the club is looking to compete, the University currently has a policy in place against contact sports due to COVID-19, but Anderson said the club is going to use this time wisely to practice and keep people safe.

"Currently we want to start getting into the gym and back into shape," Anderson said. "We know we are not actually going to be able to grapple with each other yet, but it's the manner of getting back into physical shape."

Wrestling Club also wants to collaborate with Maryville High School and the Maryville R-II School District with different wrestling events and practices.

"We will be helping out with their wrestling and maybe practicing with them when COVID is over," Anderson said. "We also want them to be involved with our organization as well, whether that is by having mat sessions or having them come train with us."

When looking into the future of the club, there is hope that this could eventually become a recognized sport at Northwest and something that people want to come to Northwest and be a part of.

"I want it to be an opportunity for people who love the sport and want to continue it," Anderson said. "Eventually we want to be able to give people scholarships, and Northwest can use it as a recruitment tactic."

Sponsor Arghya Goswami said that Anderson came to him with the idea, and he thought it was a good opportunity for students to stay fit, reach out into the community and would be a good opportunity to build their resumes.

"Having an extracurricular transcript rather than just an academic transcript looks good," Goswami said. "Collaboration with the school district brings a possibility that there could be new students to Northwest because of the platform they are used to."

Though there was a former wrestling club, the current members are wanting to make this program last and continue on unlike the last program.

"This is something completely new, and we are making it ours," Anderson said. "This is something that is going to last for years to come."

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CRIME LOG

for the week of Feb. 25

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Feb. 11

There is an ongoing investigation for stalking at The Station.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Feb. 12

A bicycle was recovered on the 1500 block of North Main Street.

There was an accident between **Brice C. Law**, 18, and **Savannah A. Riley**, 20, of Gallatin, Missouri, on West Ninth Street and North Main Street. A citation was issued to **Law** for not having a valid driver's license and careless and imprudent driving.

Feb. 13

There was an accident between **Andrea L. Schildknecht**, 45, of Rosendale, Missouri, and **Ashley D. Shamberger**, 35, on U.S. Highway 71 bypass and U.S. Business Highway 71.

Feb. 19

A summons was issued to **Joshua W. Paulus**, 22, for failure to appear in court on the 400 block of North Market Street.

A summons was issued to **Elinson S. Mejia Casteneda**, 20, for not having a valid driver's license, possession of a fake I.D. and an equipment violation on the 100 block of East Jenkins Street.

There was an accident between **Brandie N. Cain**, 28, and **Abigayle R. Davis**, 20, of Stanberry, Missouri, on North Mulberry Street and West Fifth Street.

Feb. 20

A summons was issued to **Kacie E. Lapsley**, 20, for failure to appear in court on the 400 block of North Market Street.

There was an accident between **Corby E. Roush**, 21, and **Kyle J. Wallinga**, 51, on East Edwards Street and North Market Street.

There was an accident between **Halle J. Wilson**, 16, and **Williams Delmond** on the 200 block of Volunteer Avenue.

VACCINE

CONTINUED FROM A1

Blackford said vaccine availability in a county and the county's population size are why some counties have a lower vaccinated population than others.

"We've been fortunate because we have had access to the vaccine, and we also have a smaller number of people in our county than, say, Clay County," Blackford said.

He noted that the county seems to be getting close to finishing up giving first doses to residents who are eligible for the current open tiers and interested in getting a vaccine.

Blackford explained that if the county were to finish administering first doses to everyone who was eligible and interested, then the county would have to pause its vaccination process and wait for other counties to catch up.

"If we get to a point where we have said, 'OK, we don't have anybody else to vaccinate,' then they (the state) want to get St. Louis County caught up before we start doing that next tier in Maryville," Blackford said.

He noted that if Nodaway County were to begin vaccinating people in tiers that have not been opened by the state, that the state would stop sending the county vaccines.

SURVEY

CONTINUED FROM A1

"I would rather have my class on Zoom or canceled than to miss my class for the day or risk getting into an accident in very cold temperatures," the student via the anonymous survey from Student Senate said. "I know so many students that just skip class when it's too cold out, when they can't get their car out of the driveway or when it's too cold to spend 10 minutes scraping off your car."

Students also said they feel only the main roads are plowed, and students mainly live on side streets, which can take an extra two days to have snow removed. They also said that they wanted University decision-makers to take into account the amount of time it takes commuters to clean off their cars to get

BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM A1

The city's fourth strategic goal is to improve community livability and quality of life with \$2.9 million budgeted. Maryville Public Safety is included in this goal, with \$1.3 million planned for purchasing a new aerial ladder truck to replace an existing 1981 Sutphen unit that is beyond its useful life. A total of \$400,000 is in-

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM A1

"All parties obviously want to solve the taste and odor issue as fast as we can without having a huge financial burden to our ratepayers, to our customers in the city," Parsons said. "We really appreciate their willingness to step out. It lays a good foundation for future work."

The agreement between the water district and the city allows both parties to split the initial upfront costs of the GAC absorbers that will be converted into the already-existing clearwater tank until the water district caps out at \$600,000. This four to seven year solution grants the city time to decide on a long-term solution of possibly constructing a new water treatment facility.

McDanel said the GAC absorber project should be completed by November when the water odor and taste issues seem to be at their peak.

Downtown Traffic Signal Replacement Project

Along with efforts to resolve the water issue, the Council approved other ordinances to set the foundation for two large projects the city is positioned to complete this year.

The Council approved a contract with JD Bishop Construction to replace the traffic signals downtown located at Third and Main streets and Fourth and Main streets which were placed in 2008 with the Downtown Revitalization Project as temporary fixtures. The city also aims to add a traffic signal outside of the new R. Keith Wood Public Safety building along First Street.

The \$880,775.55 project will consist of replacing the temporary signals with permanent mast arms along with widening the sidewalk in front of the Black Pony Brewery as a part of the development agreement the city entered with the brewery to allow for outdoor seating.

cluded in the budget for water and sewer infrastructure.

Every year, the City Council meets with administrative city staff in an open session to review current strategic goals and set or continue goals for the next fiscal year. Four out of the five strategic goals for fiscal year 2021 are a continuation from fiscal year 2020.

"That's typical; throughout a fiscal year there are only so many goals that can be accomplished," McDanel said. "We certainly make progress towards those goals, but

most adopted goals tend to be a two to three year period."

The city's final strategic goal outlined in the fiscal year 2021 budget is \$120,000 to enhance source water protection efforts and management practices at Mozingo Lake. Mozingo Lake, constructed in 1994, serves as both the primary water source for Maryville and surrounding areas and an asset for the local economy as it drives tourism. The city has identified protection and management of the Mozingo watershed as top priority.



CITY MANAGER GREG MCDANEL TALKS ABOUT THE GAC ABSORBER PROJECT WITH THE MARYVILLE CITY COUNCIL AT ITS FEB. 22 MEETING IN THE MARYVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER. THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE \$1-1.4 MILLION JOINT FUNDING PROJECT WITH THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT NO. 1.

Widening the sidewalk will also get rid of the three parking spaces in front of the brewery along Main Street. McDanel noted the cost of the project is significantly higher than the \$437,820 the city had budgeted for the project.

Mozingo Lake and RV Park

The Council approved a contract with ABC Boat Docks, LLC for \$27,488.60 — an addition to an already approved \$123,724 and still falling under the budgeted amount of \$130,000 — for maintenance repairs to the EZ docks.

The original boat docks were drilled into the lakebed, making them difficult for staff to do maintenance on and leaving them vul-

nerable to ice. This system is now outdated; the new EZ Docks will allow for staff to do in-house maintenance and pull some dock sections during the winter months. Longer ramps are also set to be installed to help with the constantly-fluctuating lake levels.

Keeping sights set on Mozingo recreation, the Council approved a \$15,000 contract with Snyder & Associates to add 38 more RV sites to the RV park at Mozingo Lake Recreation Park with full water and electric hookups. \$10,900 was also approved for a topographic map of the expansion from Midland Surveying.

In the 2021 budget, the Council has approved \$450,000 for Mozingo Park Expansion. The contracts

The accomplished strategic goal removed from this fiscal year's budget was the construction of the new Maryville Public Safety building.

The city conservatively estimates it will receive \$22.5 million in revenue, a \$734,819 increase from an estimated \$21,842,045 collected in fiscal year 2020. According to the 2021 budget document, a majority of the increase can be attributed to an anticipated 10% increase to water utility rates in order to continue improvements on the system.



NORTHWEST PROFESSOR CATHERINE HOLTHAUS RECEIVES HER FIRST DOSE OF THE MODERNA VACCINE AT THE MASS VACCINATION EVENT FEB. 4. AT LAST WEEK'S CLINIC, 711 OF 726 RESIDENTS SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE THEIR SECOND DOSE SHOWED; OTHERS RESCHEDULED.

Blackford explained that going beyond the current open tiers could incentivize people to travel to other counties in Missouri that are ahead in the tiers to get vaccines, disrupting the tracking process from the first vaccine to second vaccine. He

said it also creates a bit of an inequality for those who may not be able to travel from one county to another to get vaccinated.

Blackford said that it could be up to four more weeks before Missouri Gov. Mike Parson decides to

open up the next tier.

For now, the partnership between Mosaic - Maryville, the Nodaway County Health Department and the University will focus on finishing administering first doses and continue giving second doses.

McDonnell found that more than 57% of 185 students who filled out the survey said they did not have proper winter attire to be outside in weather that is below 32 degrees for more than 10 minutes.

"That's hitting freezing, but they look at around negative 30 to call a snow day, so it's concerning that it is 60 degrees colder and people don't say they have the equipment for 32 degrees," McDonnell said.

McDonnell saw those results and quickly contacted the campus Career Closet to see what type of winter attire was needed.

After talking to Career Services Director of Partnership and Placement Jill Brown about the needs of the Career Closet, Student Senate sponsored a coat drive that took place Feb. 17 to 23 and collected 15 coats. UPD also agreed to donate five coats to the drive.

At the Student Senate meeting

While the county largely distributes the majority of its vaccines at a weekly vaccine clinic partnership between those agencies, people can also get vaccines at Walmart Inc., Hy-Vee and Rogers Pharmacy.

Walmart Inc. and Hy-Vee are part of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination, which is a partnership between the federal government and 21 national pharmacy partners and independent pharmacy networks to spread the reach of COVID-19 vaccination across the U.S.

Pharmacists Julie Simmerman said Rogers Pharmacy gets vaccines by requesting shipments from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. If the state approves them for a new shipment of vaccines, the request is sent to the federal government which then ships the vaccines to the appropriate vaccine administrator.

At last week's clinic Feb. 17, Blackford said 711 out of 726 residents who were scheduled for their second vaccine made it to their original scheduled time. He said the 15 people who did not make it to their appointment were rescheduled by the health department. Fifty first doses of the Moderna vaccine were given at this mass clinic.

Blackford also said some people have had minor side effects.

Feb. 23 there was an additional \$1,500 donated to buy more coats for the Career Closet to supply to students.

"We have a ton of stocking hats, gloves and things like that, and we were thrilled to get coats," Brown said. "School is hard, and anytime we can make it easier, we want to. Whether that's with a coat, shoes, a belt or anything, it's all better in my book."

Though the Career Closet is advertised as a place to find business attire, the service has a variety of everyday clothing that students can pickup whenever and as many times as they want.

"I don't think students realize we have everything," Brown said. "I wanted to see what we needed to seek more donations for, and frankly, we don't have a lot of coats, so we were excited to hear they wanted to do a coat drive."

FOR THE CULTURE:

Education on Black history is necessary

CORBIN SMITH
Columnist
@curly_corbs



Editor’s note: As a celebration and remembrance for Black History Month, Corbin Smith will be producing a For The Culture column every week of the month of February.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela’s quote perfectly captures the essence of what Black History Month is supposed to be. Black history is celebrated to increase the understanding of a misrepresented people. Black history itself won’t change the world, but it inspires the future leaders to spark that change.

As we conclude this year’s celebration of African American history, it would be wise for all of us to reflect on what we’ve learned from this month. Whether you learned about history outside the lens of whitewashing, listened to someone’s experience as a Black American or simply watched a movie with a predominantly Black cast, you helped Carter G. Woodson accomplish his goal of educating the masses about Black achievements.

As we’re in the shortest month of the year, there’s no time to fit in centuries of stories. Luckily, Black history isn’t restricted to the confines of February.

Every day, I live the life of a Black man. Every day, I have the opportunity to make my own history and learn from previous examples of excellence. It’s not like I’m Black for only one month of the year.

With that being said, the efforts to learn about the Black community shouldn’t cease as the clock strikes midnight March 1.

It’s a little easier to learn something new during February, but what about the other months? Here’s a couple ways to turn your year into a Black history year.

Do your own research. It’s likely that you’ll hear something from a Black friend or overhear something happening in the Black community that you’re not too informed about. Taking a moment to search something you overhear in a conversation will only make you a more well-rounded and well-educated individual.

Visit a historic Black landmark. I think one of the most influential road trips of my life was when I visited the International Civil Rights Center & Museum. This museum was the first time I saw the ghost-like robes of the Ku Klux Klan. If the robes themselves weren’t haunting enough, the blood stains splattered on the masks really drove home the reality of America’s past.

Make friends with people who don’t look like you. Believe it or not, the best way to learn something on a topic is to be a part of it. I’m definitely not saying to be friends with Black people out of guilt or desire to fulfill a transactional relationship. I’m just saying, information is easier to learn when it hits closer to home.

Black History Month is about the celebration of being Black. For someone who’s Black everyday, the celebration is closer to a yearlong appreciation. It’s time to normalize being Black for more than a month.



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

Senate did its job, pushed Northwest to change policy

Most small talk conversations during winter in Maryville and at Northwest follow the same basic structure: an introductory greeting followed by multiple comments on how cold it is followed by a polite goodbye. But the last few weeks were different.

Temperatures were so low they would have made Jack Frost shudder. No longer were people remarking on how chilly their walk to campus was but how long they had until they could get frostbite or whether their home’s pipes were going to freeze as they did in Garrett-Strong.

Of course, the first thought on most students’ minds was whether or not classes would continue as normal — that’s pretty much always our first thought. However, instead of following the same complaint format via social media that was outlined by this editorial board before, Northwest Student Senate Off-Campus Representative Grace McDonnell took a different and more effective approach.

Student Senate has the same purpose as all legislating bodies: to represent the interests of its constituents and make their lives better. It tries to fulfill this purpose through allocating funds and, perhaps most importantly, acting as the voice of the students to the administration. This task is not always easy, es-

pecially with constituents that are not often involved even in Student Senate elections — last year fewer than 6% of the student body voted in the virtual elections, which featured an unopposed executive board — much less what is going on with their normal operations.

It’s become clear that the complaining on Twitter strategy was not a very fruitful way for students’ voices to be heard. McDonnell recognized this and the role that Student Senate could play and decided to do something. She implemented a survey that asked students various questions about their situations in terms of extreme cold weather and how they would like to see Northwest act during these situations.

After the survey was conducted, she took the results and presented them to University Police Chief Clarence Green to see what could be done about addressing students’ concerns. This is exactly what students want and need Student Senate to do.

A member of the body saw a common concern among students, collected data to give statistical backing that the concern was widespread and presented the data to administrators in order to find a solution.

The result of McDonnell’s survey will be a changing of University snow-

day policy in order to adapt to students’ concerns. The survey found that students are outside longer on average on inclement weather days than the University had been anticipating. This simple fact changes how officials will evaluate the chart used to determine when to cancel or delay in-person classes. It will also change the basement temperature for which, if reached, will result in a cancellation of in-person classes, which Green called a “big change.”

McDonnell’s survey also found that students do not have the proper attire to deal with not even just extreme but normal cold weather in Maryville. McDonnell then spoke to the campus Career Closet to see what the proper attire would be and what they needed. Student Senate then sponsored a coat drive Feb. 17-23. Senate also allocated an additional \$1,500 to buy coats and other winter attire.

In a time when many legislative bodies around the country have been widely criticized for sitting on the sidelines — everything is bigger in Texas, including the passivity of lawmakers — and doing nothing about the extreme temperatures, Student Senate subbed themselves in. McDonnell and the Senate took actions that will improve students’ education and protect their health.

YOUR VIEW:

Did you take or hear about the Student Senate Survey on cold weather? How did you hear about it?

LESHAWN WEEMS
Freshman
Computer Science



“I wasn’t able to take the survey, but I saw it because walking to campus in the cold isn’t terrible, but you have to bundle up a lot.”

CASSIE CRANDALL
Junior
Cyber Security



“I did take it, and it’s just kind of another thing they send you. Like, it’s not really much that goes into it. Like, just answer the question and close it and forget about it.”

OLIVIA BABINSKI
Junior
Human Services



“I took the survey, and I saw it on people’s Twitters and Instagrams from them sharing it. I thought it was neat that the Student Senate was concerned about the safety of students and whether they had the right supplies.”

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat loves polarized politics

I suppose it all started in the election of 2016. The orange wall man with stupid hair and the “Zodiac Killer” for the republicans while the left was stuck with Hillary “Pokemon Go to the polls” Clinton and Col. “Feel the Bern” Sanders. We all were on an uneasy edge that took off in the form of memes once a gorilla in Cincinnati was shot. What an awfully goofy and bizarrely terrible year that was.

Yet, in the history of the U.S., 2016 will just be a footnote com-

pared to the politics of America in 2020 and 2021, because no words that anyone can put to paper could even come close to comprehending just how hilariously pathetic and utterly concerning it is.

After those painful few days of counting votes and not knowing who won, the same people who were saying “f*** your feelings,” “he’s still your president” and “no collusion” four years ago are now the ones screaming in the streets that Biden is not their president and how it was stolen by “fake”

votes. But the left is not innocent in this regard. They have shown hypocrisy too. Four years ago they were the ones who blamed Russia and had the hashtag #notmypresident trending and are now the ones telling the right that Biden won.

The right deserves more scorn, though, because when they didn’t get the president they liked, they took things too far and thousands of right-wing extremist pigs tried to storm the Capitol in what is no doubt an attempted coup.

I now understand why people choose to ignore politics altogether. I’ve been paying attention to it since the election of 2016, and now in 2021, I feel I have mentally aged out of pure exhaustion and sickness of the situation. At this point, I really just want to go live in a log cabin with no internet or TV in the northern Canadian wilderness.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

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REMATCHES
CONTINUED FROM A8

“There was situational stuff, like last second shot selection, that we did a better job of. We had fouls to give, so we were pretty aggressive on defense at the end of that game,” Stoecklein said. “We made adjustments. Griffith (Bonderer) made two or three 3’s to start with, so we got much tighter on him, and I don’t think he hit a 3 again.”

The ’Hounds will look to tighten up their 3-point defense before heading into district play, as they allowed Cameron to knock down 11 3-pointers Feb. 17. Offensively, Stoecklein wants his players to finish at the rim better, which starts with 6-foot-9-inch senior center Marc Gustafson.

The Spoofhounds were placed as the No. 3 seed in Class 4 District 16 and will face No. 6 seed Cameron March 1 at the ’Hound Pound, as the higher seed gets to host due to COVID-19.

“We landed right where we should be, as the three seed, but

like any tournament, the three seed is capable of winning it. The No. 1 seed coach (Richmond’s Kevin Jermain) said, ‘If this tournament was played four times, there might be four different winners,’” Stoecklein said. “I believe that, too. I don’t know if there’s any clear-cut favorite.”

Although Cameron knocked down 11 3-pointers during the last matchup, senior guard Trey Houchin retaliated with 10 of his own, willing the Spoofhounds to a 66-59 victory. Since the Class 3 District 16 Tournament in 2015, the Spoofhounds have won eight straight against the Dragons.

Houchin was able to perform at such a high level due to the Dragons’ defense planning to limit sophomore guard Caden Stoecklein. Anytime Caden Stoecklein drove to the basket, the defense collapsed, allowing Houchin to be open beyond the arc. With the Dragons having to shift their attention to two high-scoring guards, the floor space can be opened even more.

From a defensive standpoint,

having played Cameron once this season makes scouting potential scoring threats easier.

“I think we’re a little bit more adjusted to what their better players can do now. We’ve seen it firsthand,” Matt Stoecklein said. “Some are quicker than we thought; some could shoot better than we thought. Now that we’ve seen that firsthand, hopefully we’ll be better adjusted.”

A win against Cameron will move Maryville to the semifinals versus No. 2-seeded Benton March 3 in St. Joseph, Missouri.

The Cardinals have gotten the best of the Spoofhounds as of late, winning the previous five matchups, including two this season. Matt Stoecklein admitted his team has a mental roadblock where they have trouble pulling out wins against Benton.

Maryville began the Feb. 12 contest against the Cardinals on a 12-4 run, but an 18-0 run from Benton all but put the game away, resulting in a 10-point loss for the ’Hounds. The phrase “third time’s a charm” will be vocalized

in the Maryville locker room if this matchup falls into place.

“It is a hard time for them to beat us three times in a row in the same season. I think we’re now better adjusted to hopefully defend better,” Matt Stoecklein said. “It goes back to knowing where your man is and not getting lost. We just have to be better aware of who our man is.”

The man Maryville will want to keep track of at all times is junior Kason Mauzey. Mauzey averages 18 points on 57% shooting and seven rebounds. Since he’s more of an off-the-dribble athlete and looks for curl cuts, the Spoofhounds will look at playing zone instead of double teaming.

The hardships of playing Benton have motivated Matt Stoecklein and company to end their losing skid and get over that hump that has plagued them for two seasons.

“It’s not different than Savannah. We lost to them, and our boys were much more motivated to play Savannah that second time. I think they’ll be more motivated to play Benton the third time,” Matt

Stoecklein said. “When we heard that Caine (Kamren) was out because he quit, I think we thought, ‘Hey, it’s going to be a little easier,’ but they played better as a team with him out.”

The key to moving past Benton and into the district championship starts with passing the basketball around the perimeter instead of tossing it into Gustafson in the paint right away. Matt Stoecklein wants his offense to spend at least 20 seconds to find a good shot from shooters.

The bottom half of the bracket won’t be an easy task for the Spoofhounds, but they’re ready for any challenge thrown their way.

“I wouldn’t have minded playing Richmond, someone brand new, someone new and different, where maybe we don’t have that mental hang-up with them,” Matt Stoecklein said. “I think the three seed is just fine. It was either going to be Cameron or Chillicothe. We’ve played both of them just recently, and then Benton. Yes, we have familiarity with them. I’m good with being No. 3.”

Softball hopeful for first action in roughly a year after cancellations

KESTON OLTMAN
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

After waiting an extra two weeks to start the season, the Northwest softball team is heading to Springfield, Missouri, for the Drury Invitational Feb. 26-27.

The Bearcats will play four games in the two days of the invitational, starting Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. with a game against the Southwest Baptist Bearcats.

Southwest Baptist, much like Northwest, has been sidelined by the weather and hasn’t played a game yet this season. However, Northwest coach Ryan Anderson said Southwest Baptist -- located in Bolivar, Missouri -- being further south gives them an advantage.

“There is no snow on their field; their field’s dry,” Anderson said. “They’re gonna be outside for probably four days of practice this week.”

Northwest hasn’t been able to practice outside since the fall due to the extreme weather northwest Missouri has been faced with this winter, something that leaves the team behind schools further south, Anderson said.

“We’re always starting behind those southern teams,” Anderson said. “But, luckily, they’re not 10 games in. We’re both starting out 0-0, and we’re getting ready to go.”

After the Southwest Baptist game, Northwest will have a quick break before playing William Jewell Feb. 26 at 4 p.m.



The William Jewell Cardinals head into the Drury Invitational with a 1-3 record after winning their last game 6-5 against the Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers.

The Cardinals are looking to stretch the success of their last win into the Drury Invitational on the back of senior infielder Allison Rawls. Rawls has a batting average of .500 this season with one home run, five RBIs and a .917 slugging percentage.

The Bearcats will look to shut that hot bat down in a lineup that isn’t particularly scary outside of Rawls. So far this season, the Cardinals have a team batting average of .215 with one home run and eight RBIs.

The William Jewell matchup concludes the Feb. 26 games of Drury Invitational for Northwest, and they start the Feb. 27 portion of the invitational against the Prairie Stars of Illinois-Springfield.

Illinois-Springfield is entering the invitational with a 1-4 record on a two-game losing streak. The Prairie Stars were the last team Northwest softball played in 2020 before COVID-19 shut the sports world down. Northwest won that game 14-6 in Maryville.

Illinois-Springfield is coming off a 7-6 loss to Ashland University Feb. 21 and will look to rebound in the invitational. The Prairie Stars have a batting average of .291 as a team led by four players hitting .400 or better. They have also totaled 20 RBIs for the season.

“They can hit the ball,” Anderson said. “They always have good

UP NEXT

Drury Invitational
Feb. 26-27
Springfield, Missouri

players from Illinois; they’re always a good team.”

Much like the day before, Northwest will have a quick break before the Bearcats conclude their games of the invitational and play Drury, the invitational’s host school.

The Drury Panthers are in the same situation as many teams in the midwest and haven’t been able to play a game yet this season. The Panthers and the Bearcats are familiar adversaries, playing each other 12 times since 2008.

Northwest has won the last four meetings with the Panthers, including a 12-7 win last season in the Drury Invitational.

With Northwest’s season continually being pushed back, the team has missed eight games. Northwest softball will have to use the four games of the Drury Invitational and the four games of the Pitt State Classic March 6-7 to rapidly prepare for the start of conference play against Missouri Western March 13.


“We’ve got to get some confidence quickly,” Anderson said. “It’s having good at-bats, understanding that this is a game of failure and we are gonna get out. It’s moving past that, and if you get out, you move on and play, and your next at-bat you have a good at-bat.”



IZIBEL DOBBS | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest softball freshman pitcher Hayden Simmons prepares to throw a pitch at practice in Hughes Fieldhouse. The softball team has been sidelined since March 8, 2020, due to COVID-19 effectively ending last season early.

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CHAMPS
CONTINUED FROM A8

“It’s pretty exciting to have the top spot,” sophomore guard Anastyn Pettlon said. “There’s a lot of good teams, but ours has worked pretty hard to get here. Yeah, it’s pretty exciting.”

“Any time you get a chance to be the one seed, it’s a good way to cap off your season,” Albrecht said. “It’s a sign of recognition. People recognize you as the top team in that district, and it means a little extra because we’re not using a single-site format.”

Due to COVID-19, the highest remaining seed in the district tournament will host its games, according to Albrecht. This means if the Spoofhounds continue to win,

all their district tournament games will be played in the ’Hound Pound starting March 2.

Although COVID-19 restrictions have limited the amount of fans allowed in the gym, Albrecht thinks it’ll be beneficial for the girls to be able to play on their home court.

“Everybody gets tired of getting on that bus and traveling to a different location,” Albrecht said. “Generally speaking, we only get a handful of home games every year. A chance to play at home, in front of your home crowd — even though it’s limited — it adds a level of comfortability.”

The impact of home-court advantage is almost negated by the restrictions put in place to combat the aforementioned virus. However, the Spoofhounds have won 18

of their home games without the help of a crowded fan section. Pettlon says factors of the game will be more important to focus on than the lowered fan count.

“Honestly, as a team, we play pretty well because everyone on the team knows their role,” Pettlon said. “Right now, we’re working on our defense and having the right mindset going into games. I think having the right chemistry and playing our game, we’ll be pretty good.”

Pettlon said that boxing out and getting more rebounds will be vital to her team’s success in the upcoming tournament as well.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

EIGHT STRAIGHT
CONTINUED FROM A8

“The way those kids fought and gave, literally, their entire soul to that game, I can’t coach that,” McCollum said. “That’s an internal thing that those kids have. ... There’s nothing that any coach in the world can do to bring what they showed today out.”

McCollum spent most of his time after the game celebrating another conference regular season title. Amid doing that, he kept reiterating the perseverance his team showed on the road. More than anything else, McCollum was impressed with the fight that the Bearcats showed during the 45-minute bout with the ’Bods.

“People can dig deep,” McCollum said. “You can’t dig to where they dug. Like, that was deep. I mean, they were — every ounce that they had, they gave. I know that’s

cliche, but that’s what that is. Exactly what they did is what that means.”

Collectively, McCollum said, the Bearcats were able to dig deeper than they had previously done at any point in the season. Specifically, the coach spent a portion of his time commending Hudgins, junior guard Diego Bernard and senior forward Ryan Hawkins.

The trio has been a staple of Northwest’s program during the last three years. They were that in the win over the Ichabods, too.

Bernard, along with his usual stifling defense, contributed 17 points, seven rebounds and four assists. Hawkins added 16 points and six rebounds.

However, McCollum didn’t care about those stats, more so everything that won’t show up in the box score.

“They can get to another level, emotionally,” McCollum said of the trio. “It’s one of those — you don’t see it very often. ... There’s

special people in the world that can get themselves emotionally to another area. That’s what those three in particular can do. ... Can’t teach it. Can’t coach it. I can’t bring it out in people. You either have it or you don’t, and they’ve got it.”

Hudgins’ performance isn’t an outlier; he’s used to the big moment. He hit a buzzer-beating, game-winning shot to secure a 77-76 win against Missouri Southern Feb. 20, 2019, in Bearcat Arena. He was named the Division II Elite Eight Most Outstanding Player his freshman year at the end of the Bearcats’ national title run. And Saturday, he willed the Bearcats to their eighth-straight conference title against Washburn.


Those moments, he said, are what he signed up for.

“I’m just a competitor, I guess,” Hudgins said. “I mean, that’s why I came to Northwest — games like this. We work for these moments.”

WALK THE TALK:

Could NW take down Washburn if needed?

JON WALKER
Sports Editor
@ByJonWalker



Hello, and welcome back to this week’s edition of Walk The Talk, the weekly mailbag column where I answer all of your questions regarding mostly Northwest Athletics. The men and women of Northwest basketball are nearing the end of their seasons, so squeeze in basketball questions while you can. Otherwise, feel free to fire away with anything about any of the ’Cats. **Can you update us on who you think the men’s MIAA Player of the Year will be?** I’d be delighted to. Trevor Hudgins. The Bearcats’ junior guard out

of Manhattan, Kansas, is currently fourth-best in the league in terms of scoring (19.7 points per game), shooting 52% from beyond the arc and averaging a league third-best 5.1 assists per contest. Of course, Ryan Hawkins has a chance to win it as well, but his defensive stature more so defaults award voters to hand him MIAA Defensive Player of the Year. Hawkins has won that award twice already, so don’t be surprised if he wins it for the third time in four years. If it isn’t Hudgins, it’ll more than likely be Washburn’s Tyler Geiman or Missouri Southern’s Cam Martin. However, if I had a vote, I’m dishing it to No. 12 from Northwest. **Why does Northwest tennis recruit so much out of the country?** Simply put, for the same reason Northwest football recruits so heavily in the United States. Northwest football doesn’t recruit out of the country because rarely anybody overseas plays football. It’s the same thing in the United States. There are tennis players in America, an abundance of them at that, but tennis isn’t one of the most coveted sports in the states. However, it is in other countries that don’t have football, basketball, or whatever the circumstance might be. There are 19 athletes between both the men’s and women’s teams — 16 of them aren’t from the United States. Northwest tennis is traditionally pretty good, too.

If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. **Is Washburn better than Northwest despite the Bearcats’ win last weekend? Could the Ichabods win a third matchup if they meet in the MIAA Tournament?** No, Washburn is not better than Northwest. The Ichabods, without a doubt, give the Bearcats a better punch than any other team in the league has this season. Northwest has played close games, but that Washburn matchup is just something different. Northwest is still undeniably the best team in the MIAA. They moved back to No. 1 in this week’s NABC Division II poll, so they’re the best team in the country, too. I’m not even sure what I’d do if the two programs met with an MIAA Tournament trophy on the line, because that’d be interesting. If I had to say one thing that’s certain, it’d be that the game would go into overtime. It’s happened twice already, so why not a third? However, I think Northwest wins if it happens. It’d be close, but not closer than the last two matchups. It’d be in Bearcat Arena, too, so I’m not taking the ’Cats to lose on their home court twice in one season. *Walk-the-talk is a mailbag that focuses on all things Northwest Athletics. To submit a question for the next edition of the mailbag, tweet @ByJonWalker or email j.walker.missourian@gmail.com.*



JOSLIN WYATT | NW MISSOURIAN
Northwest senior guard Mallory McConkey makes a layup during the Bearcats’ 13-point loss to Washburn Feb. 23 in Bearcat Arena.

’Cats fall to ’Bods with tourney spot hanging in balance

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

Northwest women’s basketball welcomed Washburn to Maryville Feb. 23 after the original matchup, which was supposed to take place Feb. 16, was postponed due to inclement weather. While the weather outside of Bearcat Arena reached more than 60 degrees, the Bearcats (7-13) were cold inside, and the Ichabods (10-10) took advantage of Northwest’s slow start to eventually capture a 56-43 victory. Washburn started the game on a 7-0 run, sparked by freshman guard Aubree Dewey hitting a 3-pointer. Northwest tried to use its height advantage early, looking for freshman forward Jillian Fleming down in the paint. Fleming missed her first two layups due to the collapse of the Ichabods’ defense in the post, which kept Northwest scoreless for the first three minutes. Trailing by 7 points at the end of the first quarter, the cold-shooting streak continued for Northwest. The Bearcats, who have heavily relied on their 3-point shooting in recent games,

UP NEXT

NW vs. Nebraska-Kearney

5:30 p.m. Feb. 25

Bearcat Arena

could not find the bottom of the net in the first half. As a team, Northwest was 1 for 11 from beyond the arc — good for a 9% mark from three. Inside the arc was not much better for the Bearcats, as they finished the first half shooting 16% from the field. Inconsistent shooting has plagued the ’Cats all season. “We took some bad ones, there’s no doubt. We still missed a lot of open ones,” Northwest coach Austin Meyer said about the Bearcats’ shot selection. “We tried to go inside a little bit more early in the game; we just needed one or two of those to go. We’re such a streaky team shooting. Once we make one, we’ll make a couple in a row, but we just get in these spells where we literally don’t make shots.”

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



IZIBEL DOBBS | NW MISSOURIAN
Northwest track and field freshman Emily Saalfeld competes in the women’s one-mile run at the Herschel Neil Invite Jan. 30 in Hughes Fieldhouse. Saalfeld placed fourth with a time of 5:25.84. The team will be in Topeka, Kansas, Feb. 27 to compete in the MIAA Championships. It’ll be the second time in three weeks the ’Cats travel to Washburn.

MIAA Championships await Northwest track in Kansas

WESLEY MILLER
Sports Reporter | @wesleymiller360

After a successful five weeks of meets, the Northwest track team is preparing for the MIAA Championships. The Bearcats’ last meet was Feb. 13 in Topeka, Kansas, where they’ll travel to again Feb. 27-28. At Washburn, they’ll go up against 13 other schools in an attempt to be the best in the MIAA. The men were ranked No. 9 in the country in this week’s USTFCCA Division II poll, making them the highest-ranked MIAA men’s team. Based on those same rankings, the women’s team would be the fourth-best team in the conference. Sophomore Gavyn Monday said he thinks the rankings for the men show how good they are, but they lack in showing how good they can be. “We can very easily be the best team in the conference, just have to perform that day to our best capability,” Monday said. Junior Caroline Cunningham said the rankings are cool to look at, but she tries to not give them too much credit. “We have a lot of hard work on the team, and I think it will show,” Cunningham said. At this point in the season, including four meets at the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse and one meet at Washburn, Northwest’s track athletes have hit provisional marks in their respective events 19 times. Northwest has 14 spots in the top 15, six in the top 10 and two in the top 5 of their respective areas nationally among Division II athletes. Northwest has athletes in the top 15 for the men’s 60-meter dash, men’s 200-meter dash, men’s 800-meter run, women’s 800-meter run, men’s 4x400-meter relay and women’s distance medley relay. The Bearcats are ranked in the top 10 in the men’s 400-meter dash, women’s 800-meter run, men’s distance medley relay, women’s high jump and men’s high jump. Additionally, Northwest has athletes ranked in the

top five of the men’s 400-meter dash and a first-place team in the men’s 4x400-meter relay team. Sophomore Delanie Dykes, who is ranked in the top 15 three times, including two distance medley teams, said it feels great to be ranked among the great runners within Division II. “It makes me feel as if the hard work during the long offseason was worth it but also encourages me to do better and see where I could be,” Dykes said. Monday, who is ranked in the top 10 three times, including a first-place 4x400-meter relay team, said knowing how well they rank in events gives him and the team confidence for when conference comes. “It is a great feeling having that success, but we aren’t finished yet,” Monday said. “So I, nor my teammates, are not satisfied just yet.” No matter the rankings, though, the athletes said they are focused on just competing. “It can be hard with rankings; it puts some pressure on you,” Dykes said. “To stay focused, I just stay focused on myself and that if I do my best, then the rankings and records will come with me.”

UP NEXT

MIAA Championships

Feb. 27-28

Topeka, Kansas

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Northwest men's basketball coach Ben McCollum celebrates the Bearcats' eighth consecutive MIAA Championship by showing four fingers on each hand after their 88-85 win in overtime against Washburn Feb. 20 in Topeka, Kansas. McCollum has been the coach for each one of the eight conference titles, along with both of the national titles Northwest has captured (2017, 2019).

Men defeat Washburn, win MIAA title

JON WALKER
Sports Reporter | @ByJonWalker

TOPEKA, Kan. — Northwest men's basketball had won 18 times this season prior to its latest meeting with No. 15 Washburn. The No. 3 Bearcats have survived scares this season, much like they did Feb. 18 with a 69-62 win against Emporia State on the road. The Bearcats led that game by a single point with a little more than two minutes remaining. They've had major triumphs, too, much like their 79-56 road win over Missouri Western Feb. 9, when the Bearcats led by as much as 27 points with roughly four minutes left. They've only experienced one loss this year, though, an 84-82 loss in overtime to Washburn Jan. 7 in Maryville. That loss snapped the Bearcats' 28-game win streak. It was the first time Northwest endured a loss in more than a year. But, in Feb. 20's rematch with the Ichabods, the Bearcats made sure they wouldn't endure another, securing an 88-85 win in overtime against No. 15 Washburn in Lee Arena. "On Google, you search 'dog fight,' this is what's gonna come up," Northwest junior guard Trevor Hudgins said in the aftermath of the overtime triumph. "It's gonna come up,



"On Google, you search 'dog fight,' this is what's gonna come up."

-TREVOR HUDGINS

that two-hour game right there." Northwest's win against Emporia, coupled with Washburn's loss to Missouri Western Feb. 18, assured the Bearcats' at least a share of their eighth consecutive MIAA regular season title. The win over the Ichabods clinched it outright, along with the No. 1 seed in the MIAA Tournament. "I think this is probably one of the most difficult ones we've ever won," said Northwest coach Ben McCollum, who is now 16-8 against Washburn during his tenure with the Bearcats. "I think it feels better every year," Hudgins said. "I don't know why, but it feels a little bit better. Maybe this year with COVID and stuff, with just a lot more obstacles and things to get around. It always feels good to win a conference championship." Hudgins tallied a game-high 28 points on the day to go along with six assists, but his

stat-stuffed box score wasn't due to ease. Instead, it was due to necessity. Six days after the Bearcats' loss to Washburn in January, Hudgins said the Bearcats take pride in playing in another team's gym. He likes feeling as if his back is against a wall, he said. "We like to fight," Hudgins said Jan. 13. "So, that's what we're going to do." They were forced to do just that, as the Bearcats spent 20 minutes and five seconds of the contest without the lead. There was never a large gap between the Ichabods (14-5) and Bearcats (19-1). In fact, no team led by more than 6 points throughout the entirety of the contest. There were 17 lead changes and 15 ties during 45 minutes of action. "Washburn, they can fight for 40 (minutes)," Hudgins said after the overtime win.

Hudgins knew that before the latest matchup. He wasn't aware he'd have to fight the Ichabods for an extra five minutes in their overtime loss Jan. 7. He wasn't aware that he'd have to do it again in the second meeting, too. Hudgins made a free throw with less than four minutes in overtime, good enough for his 24th point of the game, also good enough to move him by Scott Fleming for No. 5 on the program's all-time scoring list. It didn't matter though. It was insignificant to Hudgins and his thoughts on his own personal accolades. That free throw had just put the Bearcats ahead of Washburn by 2 points. While the two teams were knotted at 76 with a little less than three minutes remaining in overtime, Northwest sophomore Wes Dreamer made his only shot of the day, a contested 3-pointer to give the 'Cats a 3-point advantage over Washburn. Despite the number of times the Bearcats and Ichabods went back and forth to that point, they didn't for the rest of the contest. After Dreamer's make, the Bearcats never trailed again. The contest was never tied again, either.

SEE EIGHT STRAIGHT | A6

'Hounds prep for rematches, district tourney

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

As the month of February inches closer to the end, that special time of March known as "March Madness" approaches. For Maryville boys basketball, this time of year includes the Class 4 District 16 Tournament. Before the Spoofhounds prepare for a run in the state tournament, Chillicothe is looking to diminish Maryville's confidence in its last regular season game Feb. 25 at the 'Hound Pound. The two teams have met once this season Jan. 26 in the 33rd Annual Cameron Tournament. Sophomore guard Keaton Stone ended up with a team-high 12 points and propelled Maryville to a 51-42 win. The main focus will be on Chillicothe guards sophomore Griffith Bonderer and senior Hayden Simmer. Bonderer leads the Hornets in scoring, averaging 14 points, and Simmer follows closely behind with 13. Both guards can create space and get in a groove at any point in the game, as both are shooting better than 43% on the year. The Spoofhounds will have to get a hand up, contest all shots and limit them from driving to the rim. Maryville coach Matt Stoecklein thought his team was smart in all facets of the game last contest against the Hornets and wants to duplicate that to sweep the two-game series.



Maryville girls basketball junior guard Lauren Cullin fights for the ball after losing her grip during the Spoofhounds' 70-49 win against Cameron Feb. 16 in the 'Hound Pound. The win over the Dragons moved the girls to 20-1 this season.

Girls aim to be back-to-back MEC champs

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter | @curly_corbs

With the MSHSAA Class 4 District 16 Tournament commencing in less than a week, Chillicothe is the only team standing between Maryville girls basketball and its quest for district dominance. After clinching at least a share of its second straight Midland Empire Conference championship, Maryville (20-1) hopes to claim the title outright with a win over Chillicothe (16-4) Feb. 25. Maryville coach Quentin Albrecht is happy to add another year to the 'Hound Pound's conference championship banner and wants to carry that winning mentality into the districts. "We feel like we're playing some of our best basketball of the season," Albrecht said. "With our win over a really good Jefferson City team, the girls are just excited to have a ton of confidence. They're looking forward to seeing what they can do." Jefferson City, now in Class 6, is a team that won at least 20 games in each of its last five seasons. Jefferson City was the state runner-up in 2019, tallying 29 wins that season. It took a 43-point performance from senior guard Serena Sundell to give Maryville a 63-64 victory. The Feb. 20 win was the smallest point margin for Maryville since its loss to Platte Valley Dec. 11. Since then, the 'Hounds have rattled off 17 consecutive wins en route to a No. 1 seed in the district tournament.



UP NEXT

MHS vs. Chillicothe
6:45 p.m. Feb. 25
'Hound Pound

SEE REMATCHES | A6

UP NEXT

MHS vs. Chillicothe
5:30 p.m. Feb. 25
'Hound Pound

SEE CHAMPS | A6